

**From:** Robert Pretlow, M.D.  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/7/02 3:53pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a pediatrician, and I manage two humanitarian health websites for children, one for bedwetting at <http://www.wetbusters.com>, and one for overweight children at <http://www.blubberbusters.com>. Approximately 60,000 children per month use the two sites. There are an estimated 7 million children with bedwetting in the U.S. and 15 million overweight children. These websites allow children affected with bedwetting or obesity to learn about their problem and to anonymously interact, via chat rooms, with other children affected with the same problem. There are social stigmas attached to these conditions, and chat rooms allow the children to interact in a way not possible in face-to-face life.

Both of these sites use Java software (Sun Microsystems) for educational applications and for chat rooms. Again, chat rooms are highly valued by children with socially stigmatized conditions because of the anonymity of chat rooms. There is no other chat room software comparable to Java. Java also allows monitoring of the chat rooms to insure child safety. Previous versions of Microsoft Windows have included Java, but Microsoft Corporation has now decided to no longer include Java with their new version, Windows XP. Therefore, to use our chat rooms and educational areas, children with Windows XP computers must now first download Java, a process that is complicated and time consuming (15-20 minutes with a 56K modem). Moreover, with typical 56K dialup access, the connection may be interrupted before the download is completed.

Below is an email from a 12-year-old boy with bedwetting (who uses the wetbusters site):

Subject: hi  
Date: Thu, 1 Nov 2001 20:08:30 EST  
From: RobThGmHHH@aol.com  
To: chatrooms@wetbusters.com

?i have the new windows XP and i can't get in the room it say i don't have a java browser. what do i do.?

Tony

Subsequent emails from this child indicate that neither he nor his family is unable to understand how to download Java:

?no i did not down loda it because it did not ask me if i want to down load the java browser.?

Tony

?mom and dad had to get a computer guy to put a java browser on my computer. the computer guy loaded netscape so i could have a java browser on my windows XP.?

Tony

Children using America Online with Windows XP do not receive a screen message that they must download Java. Moreover, if they are able to download Java, they are no longer able to use Java applications in AOL's browser environment. They must now use Microsoft Internet Explorer or install Netscape Navigator.

I have also been in the process of creating an interactive website for children with asthma, of whom there are 20 million children in the U.S., and who have the same social isolation issues as children with obesity and bedwetting. I have, however, currently abandoned the children's asthma site because of the Windows XP ? Java issue.

I feel that Microsoft's decision to no longer include Java in the Windows operating system constitutes a significant hardship for thousands of users. Even though I have been a substantial Microsoft stockholder since its initial public offering, I feel that the lack of Java inclusion in Windows XP places an unfair barrier for users of chat rooms and other Java applications.

Because Microsoft is allowed to have a monopoly on the PC operating system, I feel that Microsoft has a responsibility to not abandon consumers. Microsoft should therefore be required to include Java with the Windows operating system.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the above matter.

Yours truly,

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